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### SITE 28 DAM REHABILITATION

The **Site 28 Rehabilitation Project** began construction in July 2024. Site 28 is located in Caldwell County near the Community of McMahan, which is directly southeast of Lockhart. This dam is listed as “high-hazard” by the TCEQ and suffered wave action erosion on the face from Hurricane Harvey. The estimated cost for this rehabilitation project is over \$12 million dollars. The upgrades to this site consist of raising the dam’s height,

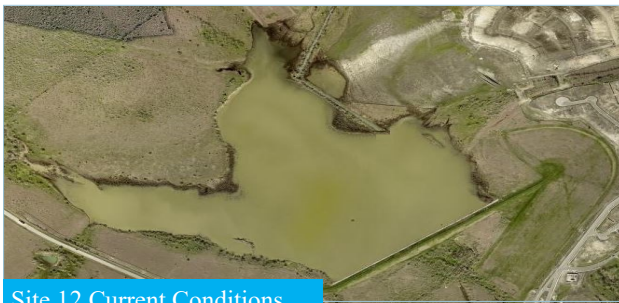


Scraping Topsoil at the Site 28 Rehabilitation Project

reinforcing the upstream face and downstream face, widening the auxiliary spillway and adding a second riser. We would like to thank the following partners for providing funding for this project: United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).

### FUTURE PROJECTS

The **Site 12 Rehabilitation Project** will be next in line for letting for bids. This site is located in Hays County directly southeast of Buda. It will have a new Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Spillway installed as well as a new riser and conduit. This project is estimated to take over three years to complete. The Site 12 Rehabilitation Project was designed by United States Department of Agriculture-NRCS. This structure was built in 1962 by the U. S.



Site 12 Current Conditions

Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. The **Site 14 Rehabilitation Project** will be let for bids, once funding becomes available. This site is one of the District’s largest dam structures and has dual auxiliary spillways. The Site 14 dam is located in Caldwell County, east of the City of Umland. This structure was built in 1967 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.

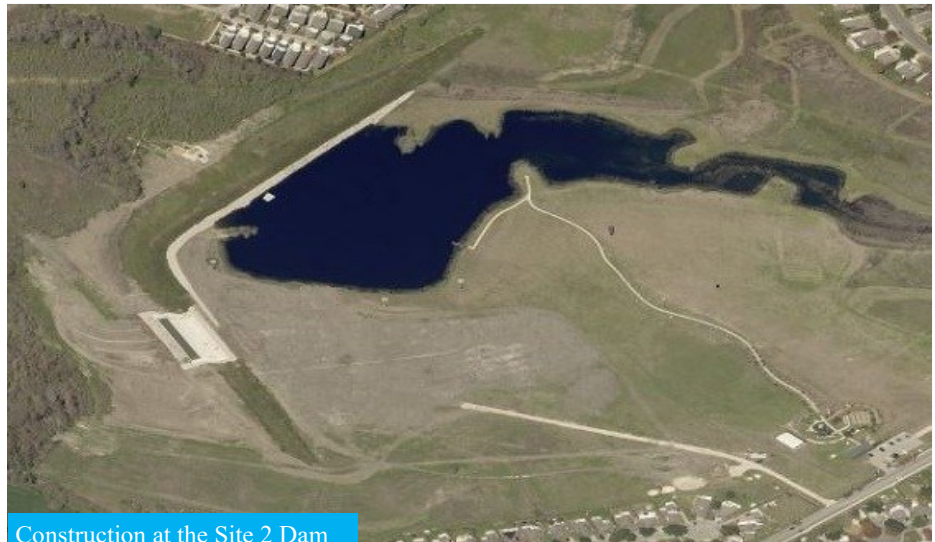
Site 14 Current Conditions



## DAM REHABILITATION UPDATES: COMPLETION OF SITES 2 AND 21

The **Site 2 State Upgrade Project** was successfully completed in October 2024 at a cost of \$8.2 million dollars. The completion of this project will allow the City of Kyle to begin using the park. Site 2 is located in Hays County just east of Interstate 35 in the City of Kyle off Lehman Road. The state upgrade project was started in November 2021.

The design of this dam incorporates a Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Spillway in the center of the dam. The new design will significantly extend the life of the dam and the dam will now be able to withstand considerably more severe weather. Funding for this project was received from The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).



Construction at the Site 2 Dam

new design will significantly extend

The **Site 21 Rehabilitation Project** was successfully completed in September 2024 at a cost of \$11.9 million dollars. The upgrades to this site include a Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Spillway, a new riser structure, conduit pipe and concreted riprap covering the plunge basin area. The rehabilitation also includes new fencing around the easement area and revegetation with Bermuda grass. This site is located in Caldwell County off Highway

183 and FM 1184. The rehabilitation project was started in April 2022. With this new design, the dam's life has been significantly extended and can withstand considerably more severe weather. The funding for this project was provided by both state (TSSWCB) and federal partners (USDA- NRCS).



Construction at the Site 21 Dam

## PCCD WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER



Lee Rust has been active in Environmental Field Studies since 1997, starting in Houston, then Wyoming, Washington State, Indiana and Pennsylvania all while working on Energy, Power & Water Conservation field projects. Over the last couple of years, Mr. Rust has been a guest Environmental Engineer Field Instructor at Texas A&M and Texas State. Environmental Education of the next generation (K-12 program) is very important to Mr. Rust. Projects that utilize the latest automation equipment to help provide for protections to water, land and air have always been and continue to be of interest to Mr. Rust. Mr. Rust holds a Low Impact Development (LID) Certificate and will complete his Floodplain Manager Certification in 2025.

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## Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting was a common method of providing water for many of the first settlers in Texas. Today with population growth and the increasing demand for diminishing groundwater resources, many homeowners are reconsidering this age-old practice. Because urban sprawl has led to more buildings, pavements, and other impervious cover, there are now ample opportunities for rainwater collection. Captured rainwater can be used for landscapes, gardens, pets, wildlife and livestock. Rainwater can be filtered, disinfected, and used in homes and businesses as an alternative source of water. The process is simple and often less expensive than drilling a well. Please see below for helpful information on rainwater harvesting and storage capacity.

### Water for Livestock and Pets

One horse or cow can consume up to 18 gallons of water per day so collecting enough rainwater solely from roof surfaces to supply a large cattle operation would be impractical; however, rainwater collection could be used as a supplement. Harvested water could be used to augment low-producing water wells as well as water stored in large storage tanks. For smaller herds, individual animals, or pets, the storage capacity of a 10,000 gallon rainwater harvesting system may be sufficient, depending on surface collection area and average monthly precipitation data. For more information, please refer to Chapter 4 of the *Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting*, which can be found on the Texas Water Development Board's website at [www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov).

### Water for the Home

Homes worldwide use harvested rainwater as their main source of water. This is becoming more common for many homes in Texas. It is important to note that the storage capacity of any rainwater harvesting system used to supply a private residence or small business must be capable of storing enough water to last several months. In addition, different types of filters should be installed to ensure that the water quality is safe for human consumption.

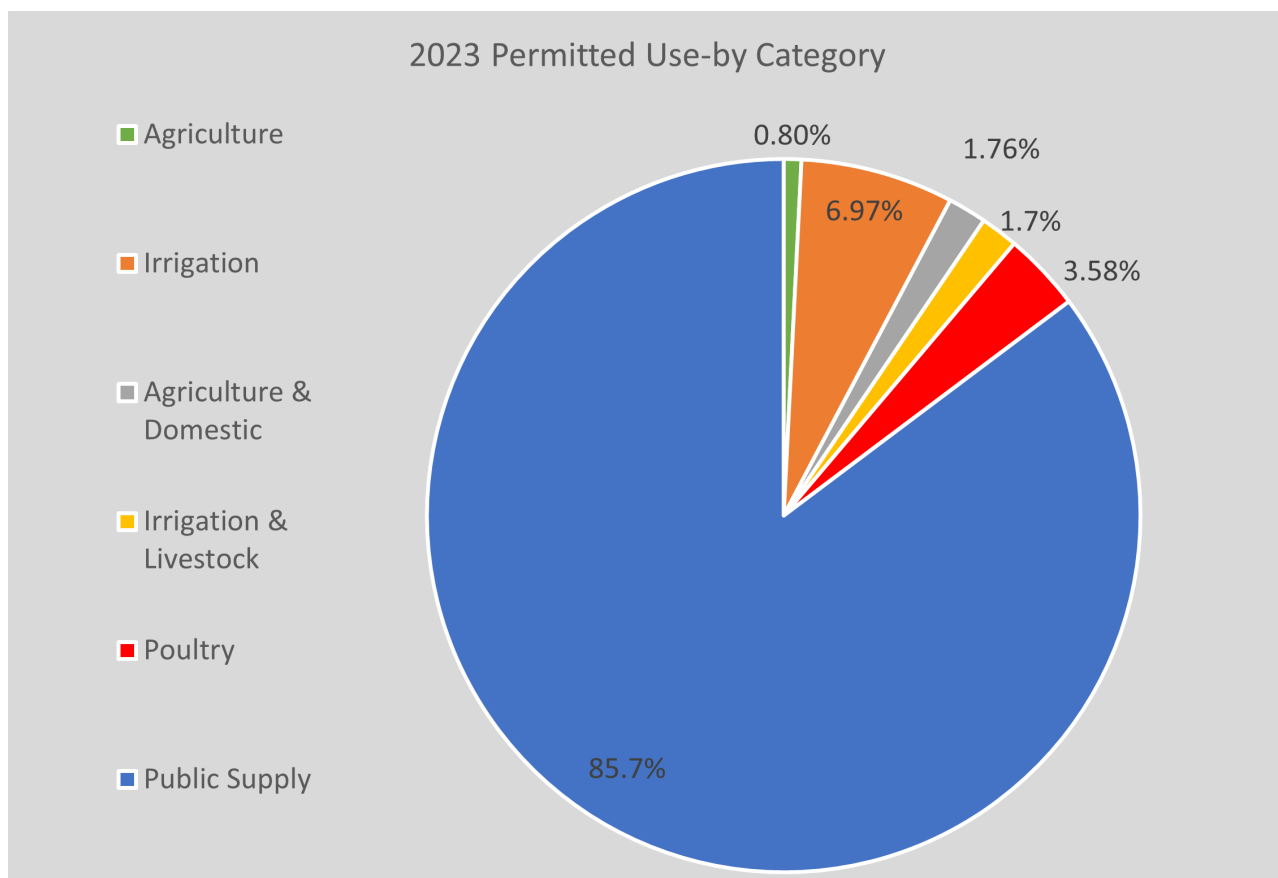


## WATER CONSERVATION TIP: BE MINDFUL OF LAWN WATERING PRACTICES

A green lawn is a significant water investment. Watering your lawn can account for up to one-third of a household's water use during the summer! If your intent is to keep a traditional lawn, be mindful of your watering practices. Here are some helpful tips: Change your watering schedule to once a week for a longer duration rather than watering several times a week. Water in the early morning or evening rather than the afternoon to help with water intake for your lawn. Plant shade trees to protect your lawn from receiving too much sunlight. Use mulch around plants to retain soil moisture. Placement of your irrigation system can also be a huge factor in using too much water during the hotter months. Adjust your irrigation system to use less water in rainy or cool months. Finally, if you feel your lawn requires too much water, ditch the grass in favor of xeriscaping practices by using items such as drought-resistant plants, pea gravel, decomposed or crushed granite.

## 2023 PCCD GROUNDWATER USE

PCCD permittees reported using 2,616.515 acre-feet of groundwater in 2023. This is 14.98% of the total permitted 17,466.67 acre-feet. (Several non-public supply permittees failed to report usage.) The pie graph below compares water usage by category for 2023. For more information, please contact PCCD and request a copy of the *2023 Water Use Report*.



## WATER LEVELS

The table below shows water levels for 7 wells measured between January 1, 2023, and November 21, 2024, along with the corresponding lowest recorded water levels. If you are interested in finding out the water level in your well and how it compares to other wells in the area, contact us to schedule a time to measure your well. Complete water level data can be found on our website at [www.pccd.org](http://www.pccd.org)

Well	2023 Levels	2024 Levels	Lowest Recorded Level
Kosarek	-50.85	-51.3	- 51.3
Steinhardt	-21.34	-22.8	- 22.8
Lipscomb	-96.11	-96	-96.11
Lockhart #8	-84	-107.5	- 108.0
McCormick #2	-67.13	-67.125	- 71.0
McCormick #1	-70.53	-70.525	- 71.8
Collier	-70.6	-70.5	- 70.6

## **Plum Creek Conservation District**

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## **Directors**

**James A. Holt Jr., President, Kyle**  
**Peter Reinecke, Vice-President, Luling**  
**Lucy Knight, , Secretary-Treasurer, Lockhart**  
**Fred Rotherth, Kyle**  
**Tom Owen, Lockhart**  
**Lee Rust, Luling**

## **Staff**

**Daniel Meyer, Executive Manager**  
**Alan Burklund, Project Manager**  
**Tyler Farco, Staff Member**  
**Nora Lopez-Castillo, Administrative Assistant**  
**Robert Wilson, Consulting Attorney**  
**Wm Feathergail Wilson, PG, Consulting Geologist**

The Plum Creek Conservation District's Newsletter is available via email. If you or someone you know would like to receive our Newsletter via email rather than US Mail, please contact our office at (512) 398-2383.

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Stamp  
Here